Breach in the Bhakra Main Canal

324. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:
SHRI BHIM RAJ:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the breach in the Bhakra main canal as a result of sabotage by extremists posed a threat to cotton and paddy crops and also drinking water supply to neighbouring States;

(b) if so, what immediate necessary steps Government have taken for repairing the breach;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to give adequate compensation to the farmers who have been effected by the breach; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to safeguard such installations from the activities of anti-national forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The breach in the Bhakra Main Canal which occurred on 6th June, 1984 has since been repaired and water released in the Canal on 10th July, 1984. As a result of breach supply of water could not be released till it was repaired.

(c) The Central Government do not provide compensation to the farmers whose crops are affected by drought, floods, hail storm etc.

(d) The State Government had been advised to take appropriate precautions required for protection of the canal.

Cost of construction of Rajasthan Canal

325. SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Jan Satta' of 30th June, 1984 to the effect that the cost of construction of the Rajasthan Canal has increased by 15 times over the original estimates;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to institute a probe into the matter; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (d) The cost of Rajasthan Canal Project according to original estimate (1957) was Rs. 66.46 crres. Rajasthan Government have informed that according to present estimate (at 1983 price level) the cost of the Project is Rs. 917.44 crores. The increase in cost is reported to be due to enlargement of scope and benefits from the Project besides the general price rise. The State Government does not consider it necessary to institute a probe in the matter.

Outbreak of Water-Borne Diseases in the Country

326. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of 19th May, 1984 to the effect that epidemic diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases have broken out in various regions of the country and a number of diarrhoea persons have died as a result of failure of the